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Security Council
Sixty-fifth year

Identical letters dated 12 January 2010 from the Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to transmit a statement by the State Duma of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation on the destruction by the Georgian authorities of the Great Patriotic War memorial in Kutaisi (see annex).

I would be grateful if the present letter and its annex were circulated as a document of the sixty-fourth session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 126, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Vitaly **Churkin**

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Annex to the identical letters dated 12 January 2010 from the Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

[Original: Russian]

Statement by the State Duma of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation on the destruction by the Georgian authorities of the Great Patriotic War memorial in Kutaisi

The deputies of the State Duma of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation are appalled by the wanton destruction of the Great Patriotic War memorial, an act of vandalism that has been committed in Georgia. What is particularly disturbing and alarming to the State Duma, the entire civilized world and all those who cherish in their hearts the memory of those who fell in the struggle against Nazism is the fact that this shameful act was committed on the direct orders of the Georgian authorities.

The deputies of the State Duma are convinced that this decision was motivated by the desire of the Georgian authorities to destroy a monument in honour of the Great Victory, which to this day remains one of the most powerful symbols uniting Russians and Georgians and all persons who fought against the scourge of fascism and prevailed in that war.

The Tbilisi regime, which loudly proclaims its commitment to European values, has placed itself outside of European civilization by this act. It has also shown flagrant and cynical contempt for the memory of its own people's triumph. Symbolically, it is also highly regrettable that the destruction of the memorial in Kutaisi, an affront to history and humanity carried out on the orders of the Georgian authorities, caused the loss of human life even now in the twenty-first century.

The State Duma supports the initiative to rebuild the memorial to the Georgian soldiers of the Great Patriotic War in Moscow, the capital city of a State that won an historic victory over fascism. All sectors of Russian society and the country's political forces have united behind this idea. The deputies of the State Duma are convinced that rebuilding the memorial will help to restore the centuries-old tradition of friendship between the Russian and Georgian peoples which, like the memorial in Kutaisi, the Tbilisi regime is seeking to destroy.

The State Duma calls on the parliaments of foreign States and on international organizations to condemn the actions of the Tbilisi regime which, following the failed aggression against the people of South Ossetia in August 2008, is now seeking to wage a war against the Georgian people and against our shared history.

Moscow
25 December 2009